(b) Shri Chandrahasan has been allowed to return to India following his appeal to the Prime Minister and a public statement reaffirming his faith in a negotiated political settlement. Shri Balasingham was allowed to return on short-term visa to facilitate the ongoing discussion in the search for a political solution to the ethnic problem to Sri Lanka.

Utilisation of Central Funds by Orissa for State schemes

*148. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Government has taken the permission of the Planning Commission to utilise the Central funds for the State Schemes like rehabilitation of rural poor; and

(b) if so, how the Planning Commission is monitoring utilisation of Central assistance by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Central assistance is provided in the form of block loans and grants for the plan as a whole on the basis of modified Gadgil formula as approved by the National Development Council and not for specific schemes. Inclusion of specific schemes in the State Plan is generally done in consultation with the Planning Commission.

(b) The Ministry of Finance releases Central Assistance in monthly instalments up to January on account basis and the balance of Central Assistance is released in March on the basis of Plan expenditure reported by the State Government.

Opening of the Khunjerab pass on the Karakoram Highway to foreigners by Pakistan and China

*149. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan and China have agreed to open the Khunjerab pass on the Karakoram Highway, which passes through unauthorised and illegal Pak occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir, to foreigners allowing them to go between the two countries;

(b) whether any protest has been lodged against this new Pakistani move with Chinese collusion to entrench into this strategic area, if so, with what results; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the negative what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government have on different occasions protested to both Pakistan and China against the illegal construction of the Karakoram Highway as well as against the opening of the Khunjerab Pass to traffic between Pakistan and China.

The Government of Pakistan has chtracterised our protest as "unwarranted and not acceptable". The Chinese Government have stated that opning and use of the Khunjerab Pass does not involve the ownership of Kashmir and does not constitute a violation of Indian sovereignty. Government, of course, does not agree with these views.

सिक्किम के मुख्यमंत्री द्वारा की गई मांगें

*150 श्री कैलाश पति मिश्र :
श्री शंकर सिंह वाघेला :

क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 2 सितम्बर, 1985 के "टाइम्स आफ इंडिया